



Merri Gaither Smith Joins Park Board

Recently, long-time community activist Merri Gaither Smith added one more notch to her already impressive list of volunteer activities: Park Board Commissioner. Gaither Smith replaces Howard Bond, whose six-year term expired in January.

Gaither Smith served more than 30 years in teaching and administrative capacities with Cincinnati Public Schools. During that time, she also co-founded two still-active community organizations: Women's Alliance, Inc. in 1966 and Advocates for Youth Education in 1988. In addition, she has served on the boards of such prestigious institutions as the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center, WGUC-FM Advisory Committee, Cincinnati Arts Association and more.

"We are pleased to have someone of Mrs. Gaither Smith's caliber join our Board," said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of the Cincinnati Park Board. "With her extensive background in education, as well as her service to the arts and non-profit community, she brings a completely new dimension to our leadership team."

Mr. Carden also expressed appreciation for outgoing commissioner Bond. "Howard was a valuable member of our team. During his tenure, the Parks continued to blossom and grow. We hope he will continue to be an active Parks participant."

Mrs. Gaither Smith's term on the Park Board began in January 2005 and will continue through January 2011.

Change is in the Air

A Message from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation President

As we continue moving through 2005, we at the Cincinnati Parks Foundation would like to take a moment and look back at the successes accomplished during the past year. Clearly, 2004 was an outstanding year for the Foundation. From a financial perspective, we were able to generate just under \$600,000 from:

- The Ludlow/Kessler Campaign
- Benefit performances of Plaid Tidings and Patsy Cline at the Playhouse
- A \$20,000 gift from Cinergy
- The Tree Gift and Park Bench programs
- Miscellaneous grants, donations, and sponsorships

In addition to supporting the operations of the Foundation and other purposes, these funds were used to build a new overlook in Alms Park, install Wireless Internet Service (WiFi) at Piatt Park and the Krohn Conservatory and to expand the Dog Park in Mt. Airy Forest.

Financial accomplishments aside, the Foundation also performed two other noteworthy achievements during 2004, including writing a report entitled "Urban Parks Reduce Crime," which was distributed to the Mayor, City Council, Board of Park Commissioners, and other stakeholders, and hosting the grand opening of the Krohn Conservatory, attended by approximately 300 people.

During 2005, we hope to continue building on these successes through numerous initiatives designed to garner the broad-based support needed to sustain and grow our award-winning Parks system. In addition, the coming year brings other changes as well, most notably the addition of Jennifer Hafner, our new assistant, to the Foundation. We'd also like to thank all of our outgoing trustees for all of their hard work and dedication, and welcome the following new trustees: Cathy Crain, Dr. Stan Kaplan, John Neyer, Tom Schiff, Bill Theiman, and Marsha Thornton.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at a Cincinnati Parks this year!

Gus Long,

President, Cincinnati Parks Foundation



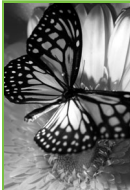
Cincinnati Park Board Receives Grant

A generous grant from the Otto M. Budig Family Foundation will allow the Cincinnati Park Board to host and produce more concerts, festivals and arts/theater events in Cincinnati Parks during 2005. The one-time \$50,000 grant, announced in December, will enable the Cincinnati Park Board to fund activities such as Summer Sounds, the Plaza Jazz Series, the Acoustic Lunch series.

According to Otto M. Budig, President of The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation and member of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, the grant is intended to give some much needed breathing space to the Park Board's annual budget. "It is our hope that through this donation, the Cincinnati Park Board will be able to continue music and arts efforts during 2005 without impacting funding for other areas."

"All of us at the Park Board wish to express our thanks to Mr. Budig and the Budig Foundation," said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Parks. "We are extremely grateful for this donation."

For a list of upcoming Parks events, including those sponsored in part by the grant, please see "Save the Date" on page 3.



Calling All Volunteers!

The 10th annual Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show begins on May 7th. In order to make the show a success, we need your help! If you are interested in volunteering call 513/421-5707.



Letter from the Director

An Outstanding Year

During 2004, the Cincinnati Park Board, like other City organizations, was asked to reduce our spending. Although this reduction in funding resulted in a number of actions designed to lower costs, all in all, the Parks was able to accomplish a significant amount of progress this year, including:

- Completing the fourth and final phase of renovations to the Krohn Conservatory. Over the course of the four year-project, more than \$3 million dollars were invested in this highly prized city attraction, including re-glazing of windows, building a handicap-accessible ramp, improving the Gift Shop and adding wireless internet access.
- Raising more than \$90,000 to build a new overlook in Alms Park.
- Installing a contemporary pavilion known as the "Castle of Air" at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, a gift from Munich, Germany, Cincinnati's sister city.
- Saving the city millions of dollars in operations and maintenance costs through a landmark agreement with the Hamilton County Park District to manage Fernbank Park.
- Expanding and enhancing the Dog Park in Mt. Airy Park through grants and volunteers supplied by Cinergy.

Yet we didn't make these and our other accomplishments alone. In many cases, partnerships — whether with other government agencies, private foundations, businesses or volunteers — were at the heart of our success. In fact, more than 28,000 volunteer hours were donated to the betterment of the Parks during the past year. Through this assistance, as well as the assistance of our other supporters and staff, the Parks continues to be an outstanding value to the City, leveraging 42 cents of every tax dollar — a number which outperforms the average S+P 500 return. All of us at the Cincinnati Parks look forward to fostering these relationships and continuing to be one of the "Best Urban Park Systems" in the country.

ENJOY THE PARKS!

Willie F. Carden, Jr.

Director of Parks

Say "Ja" to Munich, Germany!

Recently, the Cincinnati Park Board completed the construction of the Cincinnati Garden in Munich, Germany. Built through private donations, the "Cincinnati Garten" is a reciprocal gift to Munich in response to their generous gift of the "Castle of Air", which stands in our own Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park. The Garden will be dedicated to the citizens of Munich in a public ceremony on July 29, 2005.

Cinergy Volunteers Lend Many Helping Hands at Mt. Airy Dog Park

On October 20, 2004, neither rain nor clouds were able to dampen the spirits of nearly 70 individuals from Cinergy Corporation's Information Technology (IT) department who volunteered their time and talents for the benefit of the Mt. Airy Forest Dog Park. Through the efforts of these volunteers, as well as a \$23,000 grant from the Cinergy Foundation, the Park Board was able to triple the size of the dog park. Selected based on feedback from users of the dog park, tasks performed included expanding the area reserved for small dogs, installing fencing and constructing a "Doggie Time Out" pen.

The partnership with Cinergy delivered benefits both to the company and to the Parks. For Cinergy, the work was part of an internal team building initiative known as "Cinergy at Work." Coordinating and completing the challenging tasks of this project provided the IT group's management team with an excellent opportunity to improve team building skills while helping the community. For the parks, the eight hours of support and teamwork performed by the 70 Cinergy volunteers translated to a value of \$8,400 in actual labor — all done at no cost to taxpayers.

Such support and teamwork from Cinergy personnel is a great example of the type of community partnerships the Park Board hopes to continue to build in the future. The Park Board plans to use the Mt. Airy project as a model for other corporations who would like to use a community service project in Parks to facilitate organizational team building in their company.



Cincinnati Parks Recognized by Peers for Excellence

At its annual meeting held in Cincinnati on February 9, 2005, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association announced that the Cincinnati Parks was the recipient of numerous honors in a variety of categories. Awards received were:

Management Innovation/Special Project Award

- Award of Excellence for the Cultural Exchange at Theodore Berry International Friendship Park

Marketing/Technology Marketing

- Honorable Mention for the wildflowers of California Woods website
- Honorable Mention for Wireless Internet Service at Piatt Park

Natural Resource Award

- Meritorious Award for the McEvoy Park Wetlands

Youth Programs and Events, Ages 6-11

- Honorable Mention for Nature Next Door program

Congratulations to all Parks staff and volunteers for your efforts in these areas!



Julie Horne, of the Cincinnati Park Board, accepts an award from Michelle Park, Executive Director OPRA.

Save the Dates!

Maple in Mt Airy

Saturday, March 5 • 10:00 a.m.
\$7.00 per person. Call 321-6070 for reservations.
Oak Ridge Lodge, Mt. Airy Forest

Spring is Coming

Saturday, March 12 • 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Alms Park

Pancakes in the Woods

Sunday, March 13 • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
\$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children. Reservations not required. Call 231-8678 for more information.
California Woods Nature Preserve

Introduction to Orienteering

Sunday, March 20 • 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.
\$1.00 per person. Pre-registration required.
Call 861-3435.
Ault Park

Spring Fling Nature Hike

Saturday, April 2 • 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Free. Call 513/542-2909 to register.
LaBoiteaux Woods

Wild Edibles

Saturday, April 9 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Free. Call 513/861-3435 for reservations.
Avon Woods

Wildflower Wandering

Saturday, April 16 • 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Free. Call 513/231-8678 for reservations.
California Woods

Hooked on Fishing

Saturday, May 7 • 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Free.
Burnet Woods

A Trip Through Hauck Gardens Walk.

Sunday, May 8 • 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Free
Hauck Gardens

10th Annual Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show

Saturday, May 7 – June 19

Plaza Jazz Series

Saturdays, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, September 3, 10, 17, 24 • 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Burnet Woods, Diggs Plaza

Herp, Herp, Hooray Amphibian Program

Saturday, May 21 • 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Buttercup Valley

Wetland Wilds Walk

Sunday, May 22 • 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
McEvoy Park

Summer Day Camps

June 13 – August 19
Visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov/parks or call 513/321-6070 for a complete list of the 45 camps.

LPK Acoustic Lunch Series

Tuesdays in June, July, August, September
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Piatt Park, Downtown

Summer Sounds

Sundays, June 26, July 17, August 7
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Burnet Woods Bandstand

For a complete event listing, visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov/parks or call 513/352-4080.

Balluminaria

At Balluminaria, nearly a dozen full-size hot air balloons were secured beside Mirror Lake. As dusk fell, the lights from the fires within the balloons glowed and reflected off the water, making for a beautiful and inspiring scene.

How Green is Your Forest?

From protecting the ozone to removing air pollution, you’ve always heard that maintaining our forests and trees is important from an ecological perspective. However, did you know that being a good citizen of the earth can have positive financial implications too?

Recently, Cincinnati Parks determined just how much using CITYgreen, a powerful Geographic Information System (GIS) application for land-use planning and policy-making developed by American Forests. Cincinnati Parks used CITYgreen to determine the economic benefit from Mt. Airy Forest by analyzing factors such as stormwater runoff, air quality, energy savings, tree growth and carbon storage and avoidance. The result? An amazing \$1.2 million in economic savings to our city!

Analysis Report

Site Statistics

Analysis Area

Mt. Airy Forest

Area

2.3 sq. miles
1,471.10 acres
595.35 hectares

Landcover Distribution

Acres

0% Cropland

.11

3% Impervious

47.63

7% Open Space/Pasture/Meadow

100.27

0% Shrubs

0

90% Tree Canopy

1,322.85

0% Urban Land Use

0

0% Water

.23

Ecology Benefits

Air Pollution Removal

Air Quality Reference City St. Louis

Lbs. Removed

Dollar Value

Ozone

38,865.36

\$119,387.36

Sulfur Dioxide

21,456.65

\$16,059.42

Nitrogen Dioxide

17,884.95

\$55,136.46

Particulate Matter

44,897.59

\$92,083.71

Carbon Monoxide

3,042.56

\$1,071.51

Total

126,147.14

\$283,738.46

Carbon Storage and Sequestration

Age Distribution of Trees:

Average or Unknown

Carbon Storage

56,922.31 tons

Carbon Sequestration

443.16 tons/year

Stormwater Control

Average 2-4 years, 24-Hour Rainfall

2.75 in.

Rainfall Distribution Type

II

Hydrologic Soil Group

C

Average Slope

6

Conditions

Current

Without Trees*

Curve Number

71

93

Runoff (in.)

.62

2.02

Time of Concentration (hrs.)

2.67

1.26

Peak Flow (cu. ft./s.)

216.19

1,427.76

Storage Volume Needed to Migrate the Change in Peak Flow

5,385,101.00

Construction Cost

\$2.00/cu. ft.

Total

\$10,770,202.00

*Replaced by default landcover: Urban

Economic Benefit Summary

Annual Air Pollution Removal Savings

\$283,738.46

Annual Stormwater Savings*

\$938,995.29

Total Annual Savings

\$1,222,733.75

*Annual stormwater savings is based on financing over 20 years at 6%.

Any questions, please contact Dave Gamstetter, Nature Resources Manager, at 861-8970.



In honor of the 10th Annual Butterfly Show which runs May 7 through June 19, our trivia this issue focuses on the winged wonders.

Answers on bottom of this page.

1. How many species of butterflies can be found in North America?
2. How many butterflies are released inside Krohn during the Butterfly show?
3. Which local state has a state butterfly?

Answers:

1. During the Butterfly show, you can see over 75 of the more than 700 species that live within North America.

2. More than 1,000 butterflies are released inside the Conservatory each week to ensure that everyone has a memorable visit.

3. Kentucky adopted the Basilarchia archipus or Viceroy butterfly as the state butterfly in 1990. Ohio, in contrast, adopted the Coccinella novemnotata, or ladybug, as its state insect in 1975 and Indiana does not have an official insect. Yet no matter where you live, there's one thing we can all agree on: We love the Butterfly show!

General Information:

Cincinnati Park Board
950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/352-4080
513/352-3380 (TTY)
513/352-4096 (fax)
www.cincinnati-oh.gov/parks

Cincinnati Parks Foundation
950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/357-2619
513/352-4096 (fax)

Cincinnati Parks Volunteers
513/352-4080

Public Nature Programs
513/321-6070

Krohn Conservatory
513/352-4080

Reservations
Picnic areas, shelters,
bandstands, and outdoor
wedding areas: 513/357-2604

Alms, Ault, and Mt. Echo
pavilions; French House;
Mt. Airy lodges; Krohn
Conservatory: 513/351-4777

Special Use Permits
513/357-2605

**Information/Parks Visitor
Center**
513/352-4080



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Comings & Goings

Welcome to Comings and Goings! A new section that will let you know who’s joined the Park Board during the past six months and who has retired to even greener pastures!

Retired

- Robert Harris
- Kim Melchion
- Paul Mitchell
- Carl Sandlin

Recent New Hires

- Emily Weidmer
- Jennifer Hafner

Another Honor for the Parks

On Saturday, February 12, the Top Ladies of Distinction, a national humanitarian and professional organization established in 1964, presented the Community Beautification award to the Cincinnati Parks. The award, given to Parks Director Willie F. Carden, Jr. on behalf of the Cincinnati Park Board, recognizes the Parks’ efforts in developing projects which have “improved the environmental living conditions of citizens.”

Krohn Reopening

After being closed this summer for renovations, Krohn Conservatory, reopened to the public on October 23rd. More than 300 local dignitaries and friends of the Parks attended the “Art of Glass” celebration to commemorate the reopening.

This event was sponsored by:
**Ft. Washington Investment
Advisors Inc.**



Celebrating the grand re-opening are (l to r) Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director, Cincinnati Park Board, Krissi Barr, Sid d’Souza and Minnette Cooper, Cincinnati Parks Trustees and event co-chairs, and Gus Long, President, Cincinnati Parks Foundation.



Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director, Cincinnati Park Board (l) and David Crowley, Cincinnati City Council Member (r).

Now you can hear about park events via email. Sign up today at a park event or by e-mailing Jude Johnson at jude.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Parkways

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Cincinnati Park Board • Cincinnati Parks Foundation
950 Eden Park Drive • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
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- Francis P. Russell
- Merri Gaither Smith
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